

Sisters' S. C. E.

FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Dear Sisters of the Christian Endeavor Greeting:—I have been thinking this morning of some of the elements necessary to success in the Christian work—elements necessary to success in the S. S. C. E. While I feel that the S. S. C. E. is doing well, yet I realize that it might be doing so much better, if its members all possessed these elements of Christian character. Before I enumerate any of them, I lift up my heart in prayer to our Divine Father and Savior and ask that every Christian Endeavorer who reads this letter may ask her own soul in earnest, prayerful sincerity, "Do I possess these elements of character?" and if not that she will earnestly plead with Christ that He will help her to attain unto them.

The first is consecration. The secret of a true life, the secret of a happy life, the secret of a useful life, the secret of a successful life, is a thorough consecration of the life to God, a giving of ourselves, heart and life to God. We will not be happy Christians, we will not win souls to the Savior, we will not advance the cause of Christ, unless we are consecrated Christians, and that means that we are to give ourselves wholly to God, and to do it always, not living and working earnestly and zealously for Christ to-day and growing weary in well-doing to-morrow, and ceasing from it in a little while; but we are to press on patiently and perseveringly day after day until the race is done, the work is ended, the last battle is fought, the last triumph achieved, and the crown won.

"Ne'er think the victory won,
Nor lay thine armor down,
Thine arduous work will not be done
Till thou obtain my crown."

If it is worth while to be a Christian at all, it is worth while to be a whole Christian. If it is worth while to love God at all, it is worth while to give Him the whole heart. If it is worth while to be His at all, it is worth while to be wholly and entirely His. If Christ is worth anything in the life, He is worth everything. If it is worth while to receive Christ into our heart at all, it is worth while to give Him full possession of heart and life. "Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord, to thee." You remember Paul writes to the Romans, "I beseech you therefore, by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*" Consecration in a Christian is the most beautiful thing I know. How beautiful is that life that is lifted above all that is selfish and sensual

and worldly, and laid upon the altar of sacrifice to God, a vessel meet for the Master's use. Especially beautiful is the young life thus consecrated, the ardour and bloom of young manhood and womanhood laid wholly on His altar, the aspirations and affections and ambitions of the heart withdrawn from secular attractions and pursuits and fixed on Christ and His service, dedicated to the sublime mission of winning souls to the Savior and ministering in His courts. How beautiful to see the young, living earnest, devoted Christian lives, giving to God the treasure of a young life, a treasure beside which the gold of a millionaire turns dull, finding their highest delight in His service, caring not for the pleasures in which the world finds so much joy, but finding their souls fully satisfied with those higher joys which spring from union with Christ. And then how beautiful to see strong manhood and womanhood living above the common plane of life, every ambition hallowed, every purpose ennobled, every aspiration beautified by the indwelling Christ, seeking wealth, not for wealth's sake, but to use it for God's glory and the advancement of His cause, seeking success and a name, not for fame's sake, but to honor God, counting all things but loss that tend not to man's eternal welfare and God's glory.

How beautiful to see the aged, in the ripeness and serenity of age, the head whitened over, the steps feeble and infirm, the shoulders stooping with burdens long borne, the brow wrinkled with care, but the heart glowing in the sunlight of God's smile, the life filled with autumnal fruit waiting to be gathered above. What is the coronet on the brow, the necklace on the throat, the diamond on the finger, compared in beauty, with the beauty of a heart, young, middle-aged or old, glowing with love to God and man, a countenance beaming with faith and trust, a mind ready and willing to do God's bidding, a soul aglow with desire for man's salvation and God's glory!

"Howe'er it be, it seems to me,
'Tis only noble to be good;
Kind hearts are more than coronets,
And simple faith than Norman blood."

Now, dear sisters, are our lives thus consecrated, thus given wholly to Christ and His service? Are we bringing such consecrated service into our S. S. C. E.? If so, then there will be a beautiful record of our lives written by the angels, and the work of the S. S. C. E. will be a monument of good erected that shall be grander, more beautiful and more enduring than marble or granite. Having entered upon this work, let us give it earnest consecrated service, and it shall rebound to man's salvation and God's glory.

Next I shall talk upon faithfulness as an element of success. God bless you all for Christ's sake.

LAURA E. N. GROSSNICKLE.

FROM JOHNSTOWN, PA.

Our late correspondent stated in an article published in the columns of this paper Jan. 16, that "The Johnstown Society has a bright prospect for the future." This is true for, through the diligent work of the sisters, the brothers and young people and friends of the church have become interested in the work, and with their assistance it surely will succeed.

This society, unlike the Cornell S. S. C. E., does not sew, since our Ladies' Aid Society takes up that line of work, but spends Friday evening of each week in coming together to advance the cause of Christ, by getting our young people interested in laboring for him. The last meeting of each month is a business meeting and at the last one, seven new names were presented for membership, which shows we are increasing in number. The Society decided to send the ten dollars to the treasurer toward the support of the national organizers. This money was pledged by Miss Sarah J. Cabaugh, while at the Ashland Convention. We pray for God's assisting grace to sustain sister Laura E. N. Grossnickle in her endeavors to accomplish our Master's work.

The remaining evenings of each month are occupied with varied programs furnished by the program committee, such as: miscellaneous, consisting of essays, declamations, readings etc.; Christ's Boyhood, one of a series on the life of Christ, given once a month; Consecration services, conducted like a prayer service; Information meetings, in which are discussed such things as sponges, coral, indigo, etc.; literary, in which we study the life and works of one another; musical entertainments and occasionally a temperance play.

The program for Friday evening was a temperance play, Ralph Coleman's Reformation. It was appreciated by a crowded audience, while the roll call showed nearly every member present. The performers, under the management of W. A. Summersgill made the play seem real. The closing tableau and music between acts, furnished by Miss Minnie Crofford and the Replogle quartet added much to the pleasure of the evening.

The cast of characters were: Ralph Coleman, an inebriate husband, Frank Rea; Mary, his wife, Amanda Strayer; Julia Coleman, Daisy Coleman, their children, Kate Kennedy, Rosa Replogle; John Stokely, saloon keeper, Harry Knepper; Bob Brown, Jim Jones, Bill Stump, loafers, Blaine Replogle, Will Replogle, Arch Replogle.

Our next program is a study of the Life of David, and I hope our young people will be as much interested in it as they were in the play.

Feb. 2.

BELLE STERLING,
Cor. Sect'y.